



Tracking Maryland's Genuine Progress

Across the U.S. and across the globe, *progress* has historically been measured in dollars and cents. From houses and cars to food and electronics, we are — or at least have been — defined by what we manufacture, build, buy and sell.

Yet if we replace the word *progress* with *prosperity*, we readily recognize that being truly successful in life is about much more than one's job, car brand, or bank account.

Therefore, it stands to reason that we must take a broader view of progress and measure much more than merely the economic impact of our actions. To do otherwise is tantamount to buying the cheapest house you find and ignoring access to schools, public safety, and sense of place.

What is the *true* cost of our progress?

What value do we place on social and environmental factors — such as health, leisure time, public safety, air quality?

How can we measure these factors to better inform our decisions and evaluate the impacts of our actions on the limited resources available?

In an effort to answer these questions for decision makers, businesses and residents, Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley launched the **Maryland Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI)** in February 2010

Maryland GPI: What is it?

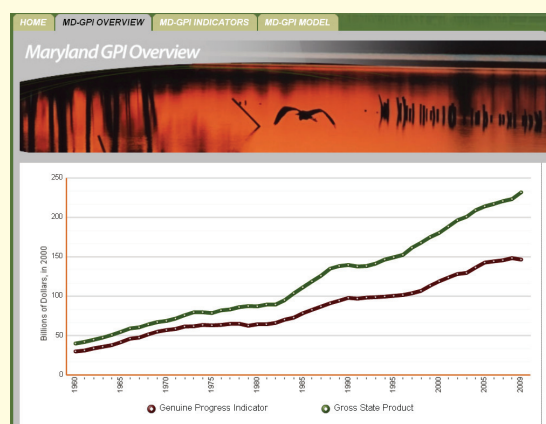
Maryland's Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI) is an innovative online tool that allows policymakers and citizens to more accurately measure our standard of living by using social and environmental indicators along with traditional economic calculations, such as the Gross Domestic Product.



Distinctions must be kept in mind between quantity and quality of growth...

Simon Kuznets (lead designer of the GDP)

The GPI incorporates 26 factors in three categories — economic, social, and environmental — from the costs of crime to the costs of ozone depletion, to provide a more comprehensive picture of the state's prosperity than purely economic measures.



The Gross National Product "*measures everything, in short, except that which makes life worthwhile...*"

Robert F. Kennedy, 1968

The Maryland GPI was adapted from a national GPI model and is updated annually. Data is collected from a wide variety of local, State and federal sources.

The GPI is a standard against which to measure year to year changes; it is not presented as the ultimate value to society.

Maryland GPI: What's next?

Maryland's GPI continues to garner great interest as a more comprehensive approach to evaluating the impacts of our decisions and actions.

While similar indicators have been calculated for several nations and states as academic exercises, no other state has developed and applied it as a public, web-based tool as Maryland does today.

Under Governor O'Malley's Smart, Green & Growing Initiative, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources is coordinating an effort to explore approaches for broader state application that will transition the GPI from an educational tool to one that can be used in budget and policy decision making.

Learn more at green.maryland.gov/mdgpi
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The Maryland Genuine Progress Indicator is based on models developed and published by academic institutions as a means for nations, states, and local governments to more accurately measure their standard of living by taking into account economic, social, and environmental well being. It was adapted for Maryland by experts from several State agencies, the Governor's Office, and the University of Maryland.